

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 51

**43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997**

INTRODUCED BY

PAULINE K. GUBBELS

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY, THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE WASTEWATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS.

WHEREAS, population growth in New Mexico has resulted in continually increasing demands for clean water, underscoring the need for existing as well as developing technologies that provide efficient, low-cost and effective water and wastewater treatment; and

WHEREAS, the supply of ground and surface waters are limited and are being adversely impacted by the increased withdrawal and increased contamination from many sources,

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 including septic tanks; and

2 WHEREAS, approximately one hundred eighty thousand homes  
3 and businesses use on-site sewage treatment and disposal in New  
4 Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, according to its ground water protection study, in  
6 Bernalillo county there are some twenty thousand septic tanks  
7 that adversely impact ground water; and

8 WHEREAS, the reduction in federal budgets for and  
9 increasing attention to water quality underscore the need for  
10 developing technologies that provide efficient, low-cost and  
11 effective water treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, the use of constructed wetlands may provide a  
13 relatively simple and inexpensive solution for controlling many  
14 water pollution problems; and

15 WHEREAS, wetlands provide habitat, restrain floods,  
16 moderate climate extremes, cleanse water like a filter and  
17 provide many other ecological and cultural benefits; and

18 WHEREAS, natural wetlands have been lost to human  
19 development at an alarming rate over the last few decades; and

20 WHEREAS, over seven thousand acres of wetlands between  
21 Velarde and Elephant Butte along the Rio Grande have been lost  
22 to development in the past fifty years; and

23 WHEREAS, more than one thousand communities in the United  
24 States currently are using or developing constructed wetlands as  
25 part of their wastewater treatment process; and

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, these wetlands may be less expensive to build,  
2 operate and maintain than mechanical sewage treatment plants;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, constructed wetlands are being used in wastewater  
5 treatment situations ranging from individual septic tank  
6 discharges to a twenty million gallon per day operational system  
7 in Orlando, Florida and forty-three million gallon per day  
8 system proposed for Beaumont, Texas; and

9           WHEREAS, constructed wetlands have been established in  
10 various communities throughout New Mexico, including  
11 Albuquerque, Corrales and Santa Fe, and these wetlands  
12 demonstrate that we can replenish our water, lost habitats and  
13 other ecological values through the use of constructed wetlands;

14           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of environment with the  
16 cooperation of the city of Albuquerque, the university of New  
17 Mexico, New Mexico state university, the energy, minerals and  
18 natural resources department and other interested parties review  
19 and evaluate alternative wastewater treatment technologies,  
20 including constructed wetlands, to assist communities,  
21 industries and agricultural enterprises to cleanse polluted  
22 water and replenish lost ecological values; and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment  
24 and cooperating entities report any findings and recommendations  
25 to the integrated water and resource planning committee before

.114322.2

1 its final 1997 meeting; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the secretary of environment, the mayor of  
4 Albuquerque, the presidents of the university of New Mexico and  
5 New Mexico state university and the secretary of energy,  
6 minerals and natural resources.

7 - 4 -  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

# State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 7, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 51

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

1. On page 1, line 12, after the first comma, insert the words "BERNALILLO COUNTY,".

2. On page 1, line 16, before the period, insert the words "AS ONE ALTERNATIVE".

3. On page 3, line 11, after the first comma, insert the words "Bernalillo county,".

4. On page 3, line 20, after the first comma, insert the words "as one alternative".,

.114322.2

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HENRC\HJM 51

Page 6

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

and thence referred to the APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE  
COMMI TTEE.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Roger Madal ena, Chair man

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

(Chi ef Clerk)

(Chi ef Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 10 For 0 Against

Yes: 10

Excused: Ryan, Salazar

Absent: None

M \HJ051

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1997

1 HENRC\HJM 51

Page 7

2

3

4

5 FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
6 FIRST SESSION, 1997

6

7

8

March 15, 1997

9

10 Mr. President:

11

12 Your CONSERVATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

12

13

14 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 51, as amended

14

15

15 has had it under consideration and reports same with

16

16 recommendation that it DO PASS.

17

18

18 Respectfully submitted,

19

20

21

22

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman

23

24

25

25 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1997

1 HENRC\HJM 51

Page 8

2

3

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

4

5

6

Date \_\_\_\_\_

7

8

9 The roll call vote was 8 For 2 Against

10 Yes: 8

11 No: Davis, Lyons

12 Excused: None

13 Absent: None

14

15

HJ051C01

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete